CLAIMS

We claim:

1.   A method for implementing a stream operator built into an environment comprising:

determining if an I/O operation in said environment having said stream operator occurs; and

performing said I/O operation with said stream operator if said I/O operation occurs.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein said stream operator allows a value of one type to be streamed to a value of another type.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein said stream operator allows a value of one type to be streamed to a value of type stream.

4.   The method of claim 1 herein said stream operator allows a value of type stream to be streamed to a value of another type.

5.   The method of claim 2 wherein said one type is of any type supported by said environment.

6.   The method of claim 5 wherein said any type can be modified depending on the type of operands of said environment.

7.   The method of claim 1 wherein said stream operator is used to access files.

8.   The method of claim 1 wherein said stream operator is used to connect to a network.

5

9.   A computer program product comprising:

a computer useable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein configured to implement a stream operator built into an environment, said computer program product comprising:

10   computer readable code configured therein to cause a computer to determine if an I/O operation in said environment having said stream operator occurs; and

computer readable code configured therein to cause a computer to perform said I/O operation with said stream operator if said I/O operation occurs.

15   10.   The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said stream operator allows a value of one type to be streamed to a value of another type.

11.   The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said stream operator allows a value of one type to be streamed to a value of type stream.

20

12.   The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said stream operator allows a value of type stream to be streamed to a value of another type.

13.   The computer program product of claim 10 wherein said one type is of

25   any type supported by said environment.

14.   The computer program product of claim 13 wherein said any type can be modified depending on the type of operands of said environment.

15.   The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said stream operator is used to access files.

16.   The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said stream operator is used to connect to a network.